

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

February 14, 2022

Board Room at the Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren Street, Battle Creek, MI

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby

Nathan Grajek

Absent

Patty Poole-Gray

Art McClenney

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Mitch Fowler – Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Jeff English – Senior Executive Director, Business Operations

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Anita Harvey, Director, District Transformation

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Robin Beyer, Acting HR Director

Nathan Hunt, Communications Manager

Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education

Absent – Administration

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Special Programming & Literacy Services

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:32pm. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby and Nathan Grajek were present.

President LaValley wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

President LaValley read the BCPS Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Agenda as presented.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karolynn Ferguson
Secretary, BCCHS Hall of Fame

Karolynn shared that the BCCHS Hall of Fame is highlighting Black Inductees who received recognition for unusual historic events on their Facebook page in celebration of February being Black History Month. They are in Week 3 of their 5-Week showcase. They have 201 Plaques hanging on the wall.

Matt Bozzo
BCCHS Student Council

Matt discussed the GVSU Scholarship opportunity and shared that today was the first meeting for the BCCHS Student Council. They talked about many things and the students all excited to have their voice heard and to have the opportunity to make a change.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby attended the meeting. The BCCHS Student Council will meet weekly on Mondays during Advisory. There are four (4) Representatives from each Grade level 9th – 11th. The Seniors are welcome to give advice or attend meetings.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bond Ratifying Resolution

Superintendent Kim Carter introduced Attorney Chris Iamarino from Thrun Law Office, who discussed the Bond Ratifying Resolution.

Attorney Iamarino gave a shout out to BCPS Administration (Superintendent Kim Carter and Rhonda Potts) for their work on the Preliminary Official Statement (POS).

President Catherine LaValley thanked Attorney Iamarino for attending the meeting tonight to explain the Bond Ratifying Resolution and expressed her appreciation for the Administration's efforts in this process.

MASB Resolution Waiving Attendance Requirements

President Catherine LaValley discussed the MASB Resolution Waiving Attendance Requirements.

There was discussion about the MASB Resolution and the reasoning behind it.

OEC Forestry Service

Jeff English discussed the OEC Forestry Service in the amount of \$39,593.00 with the Funding Source being the Sinking Funds.

Jeff discussed this project is for the removal of hazardous trees. Phase 1 for the removal of trees around the Main Lodge has been completed. This request is for Phase 2, which is for the removal of trees around the High Ropes Course and the Climbing Wall Areas. The work is scheduled to be done yet this Spring.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on February 28, 2022.

Implementation Partner for K-8 Integrated Arts RFP

Dr. Anita Harvey discussed the Implementation Partner for K-8 Integrated Arts RFP in the amount of \$207,771.00 with the Funding Source being the WKKF Grant.

There was discussion about the criteria used for the selection of GVSU as the Implementation Partner.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on February 28, 2022.

GVSU Summer Camps

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the GVSU Summer Camps. There is no cost to this program as it 100% Funded by GVSU. This request is being brought to the Board for approval due to it being an overnight trip, which requires Board approval. Moving forward, the GVSU Summer Camp would not need yearly approval in advance and will be treated like the OEC opportunity and 5th Grade Camp.

Matt Bozzo shared information about the GVSU Summer Camp.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on February 28, 2022.

Policy 3660 – Bids and Quotations Requirements – 1st Reading

Monique Cheeks provided a 1st Reading of Policy 3660 – Bids and Quotations Requirements and additional language being proposed for this Policy.

There was considerable discussion about this Policy and the intent the District seeks, as well as legal considerations to be taken into account.

Attorney Chris Iamarino discussed Board Policies in general and indicated that it is best practice to avoid identifying things that could change. He indicated the proposed (new) language for this Policy with regards to organizations in bidding is a global statement and allows Administration to implement the “how” for the handling.

There was discussion about removing the wording “where possible” from the proposed (new) language.

This matter was referred back to the Board Policy Committee for further discussion and recommendation at a 2nd Reading of Policy 3660 which will be held at the Regular Meeting on February 28, 2022.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on February 28, 2022.

Benchmark Assessment Report

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Benchmark Assessment presentation.

Under Legislation PA-48 of 2021 Section 98b, the District is required to present, not later than the first board meeting in February 2022 and not later than the last board meeting of the academic year, on the accomplishments of established goals.

There was discussion about the information provided in the presentation and additional demographics will be reported in the next presentation at the end of the school year.

DISCUSSION

Board Terms of Service

President Catherine LaValley discussed the Board Terms of Service materials provided in the Board Packet. She inquired what Board Members thoughts were as we look to the future and what term of service would be good for the District.

President LaValley shared that Trustee Art McClenney was not able to attend the meeting tonight and asked that the Board discuss this topic again in two weeks.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of 6 -year terms.

The Board will discuss Board Terms of Service again at the Regular Meeting on February 28, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karolynn Ferguson again requested that Board Members check out the BCCHS Hall of Fame Facebook page.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Acting Board Secretary

President Catherine LaValley discussed the need to appoint an Acting Board Secretary to sign the Bond Ratifying Resolution and MASB Resolution Waiving Attendance Requirements as a result of Secretary Poole-Gray being out-of-town and unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to appoint Treasurer Charlie Fulbright as Acting Board Secretary to sign the Bond Ratifying Resolution and the MASB Resolution Waiving Attendance Requirements.

Trustee Nathan Grajek supported the Motion.

President Catherine LaValley confirmed that Treasurer Charlie Fulbright was willing to serve as the Acting Board Secretary.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright agreed to serve in this capacity.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Bond Ratifying Resolution

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Bond Ratifying Resolution as presented.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

MASB Resolution Waiving Attendance Requirements

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the MASB Resolution Waiving Attendance Requirements as presented.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Administrative Appointment for Assistant Director of 21st Century

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Administrative Appointment of Tierra Stevens for the Assistant Director of 21st Century.

Motion by Trustee Jacqueline Slaby to approve the Administrative Appointment of Tierra Stevens for the Assistant Director of 21st Century.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby discussed her excitement to have BCPS Alum and someone who has moved thru various positions in the District being chosen for this position. She thinks the first-hand experience will be valuable and she is excited to see the work Tierra Stevens does.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright and President Catherine LaValley agreed.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Architectural Services for HVAC System RFP

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Architectural Services for HVAC System RFP in an amount not to exceed 7.13% of the Total Construction Cost with the Funding Source being ESSER III Funds.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Construction Manager for HVAC System RFP

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Construction Manager for HVAC System RFP in an amount not to exceed 4.383% of the Total Construction Cost with the Funding Source being ESSER III Funds.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion

Motion passed 5 – 0.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter reported that last Wednesday Governor Whitmer presented the Education Budget. Superintendent Carter believes this budget is extraordinary and a once-in-a-generation budget. It will greatly benefit Michigan Public Schools in all Districts. She encouraged the Community to reach out to their legislators in support of the budget.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby shared the following:

- She toured WK Prep last Monday and spent the day meeting with teachers, nurses, staff, the Principal and students. She had lunch with the students and participated in class activities. She shared that Principal Williams is going a great job and she had a great day.
- She toured BCCHS today and attended the Student Council Meeting as the Board Representative. She said it was exciting to talk with the students in 9th thru 11th Grades, who were elected by their peers to serve on the Student Council. Mr. Gilland, Principal Hollander and Mr. Bozzo were also in attendance. The students were excited to be part of this effort to insure their voice is lifted up.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following:

- The BCCHS Wrestlers completed their season. As the February 5th newspaper reported the Wrestling Team participated in the SMAC Championships in St. Joe and finished 5th in the match for Conference Individual Titles and Team Completions.

Last Wednesday she went to Battle Creek Fieldhouse and watched an exciting match against Jackson High School. She looks forward to watching Wrestling matches next season, but she wanted to give a good shout out to the Wrestling Team.

- Last Thursday she attended the GSRP virtually and Community Representatives discussed their work on initiatives around early childhood education. She learned more about the Battle Creek Shared Services Alliance which is for four (4) businesses that are interested in Tri-Share Child Care. Tri-Share Child Care is a program where an Employer, the State and the Employee share the cost of childcare. It is a neat program for families who need help finding quality childcare and she hopes it catches on fast.

ADJOURNMENT

President LaValley adjourned the meeting at 7:21pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary